

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated near my name below.

I believe I am **the original, first and sole inventor** of the subject matter of which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD AND DEVICE FOR FASTENING AN AUXILIARY JOINING ELEMENT
TO A SHEET-SHAPED WORK PIECE AND WORK PIECE THAT IS
PROVIDED WITH SUCH AN AUXILIARY JOINING ELEMENT**

which is described and claimed in the specification of which:

___ is executed on even date herewith; attorney docket number **docket no.**

 X was filed on **November 13, 2001** as United States Application Serial No. **10/031,655**, and amended by an amendment thereto submitted therewith (if any); attorney docket number **60,174-024** and that this application was filed on **May 10, 2000** as International Application (PCT) No. PCT/EP00/04153.

I declare that this application is:

 X a first filing.

___ a continuation.

___ a continuation-in-part.

___ a divisional.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I do not know and do not believe my invention was known or used by others in the United States of America, or patented or described in a printed publication in any country before my invention thereof.

I do not know and do not believe my invention was patented or described in a printed publication in any country or in public use or on sale in the United States of America, more than one year prior to this application.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any foreign country or in the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns except as follows:

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of the foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

X no such applications have been filed.

___ such applications have been filed as follows:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
Germany	PCT/EP00/04153	May 10, 2000	

I hereby claim priority to and all the benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s).

X no such applications have been filed.

___ such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)
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I hereby claim priority to and all the benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of the above identified application is not disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the filing date of this application.

X no such applications have been filed.

___ such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)
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POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith with full power of substitution and revocation. (all names listed with corresponding registration numbers)

Harold W. Milton	<u>22,180</u>
William H. Honaker	<u>31,623</u>
Raymond E. Scott	<u>22,981</u>
Gregory D. DeGrazia	<u>48,944</u>
Samuel J. Haidle	<u>42,619</u>
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

June 01, 2002
 Date

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Rudolf R. Müller
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